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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MAPUTO 001616

SIPDIS

FOR AF/FO AND AF/S

PASS MCC FOR BRIGGS AND GAULL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/14/2014

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [MZ](#) [DHLAKAMA](#)

SUBJECT: MOZAMBICAN GENERAL ELECTIONS: RENAMO LEADER

DHLAKAMA CONTINUES TO REJECT RESULTS

REF: MAPUTO 1603 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: AMBASSADOR HELEN LA LIME FOR REASONS 1.4 (b/d)

11. (SBU) Summary and Comment: RENAMO's Dhlakama continues to reject provincial tabulation figures, which show a clear Guebuza victory in the presidential election and a strong FRELIMO win in parliamentary races. Despite the release of an independent parallel vote count largely corroborating the partial and non-official results that have been announced so far, Dhlakama insists the voting was fundamentally fraudulent. While some of RENAMO's allegations are plausible, others are not credible, and only Dhlakama and those around him are claiming that irregularities made the difference. The national-level count is going slowly. There is increasing likelihood that the National Elections Commission (CNE) will miss the December 17 deadline and instead announce final results some time next week. End Summary.

12. (U) RENAMO presidential candidate Afonso Dhlakama repeated his call for new elections during press conferences December 10 and 14, again alleging widespread fraud and intimidation of his supporters during the December 1 - 2 general elections (refs). At the December 14 event, he was joined by the fourth- and fifth-place presidential candidates, neither of whom received one percent of the vote. Notably absent was apparent third-place finisher Raul Domingos, who was considered a more serious candidate than the other two.

13. (C) Meanwhile, Dhlakama continues to publicly disparage the findings of the Carter Center-backed National Observatory's parallel vote tabulation (PVT), which indicate, based on a random sampling of polling places, that FRELIMO's Guebuza won 64 percent of the ballots for president and the party did similarly well in parliamentary races. Late last week, National Observatory members met with Guebuza and delivered the PVT report, but Dhlakama's people said Dhlakama was unavailable, leaving them to drop the report off at his office instead. Carter Center representative Nicolas Bravo (protect) met with Dhlakama on December 10 in an effort to explain the report's findings. However Dhlakama remained adamant that the PVT report was based on "forgeries." Bravo told emboff December 14 that it is not in the Carter Center's mandate to lead the effort to persuade Dhlakama. Instead, he said that he is urging the National Observatory to meet personally with Dhlakama to try to convince him of the validity of the outcome.

14. (C) On December 13 RENAMO delivered to the Embassy a copy of its report to the European Union Observation Mission (EUOM), which details a wide range of alleged irregularities. One fundamental RENAMO complaint throughout the report is that its party delegates (official observers) were allegedly expelled from and/or denied access to polling stations throughout the country, leaving the door open for widespread fraud by FRELIMO. (Comment: Although results in a few districts suggest some ballot-stuffing, none of the several domestic and international observer missions saw anything indicating the carefully-planned, nationwide effort that RENAMO alleges.) In the document RENAMO also claims that its voter base was deliberately disenfranchised through the switching of voter rolls at polling stations in RENAMO areas. Journalist and Mozambique scholar Joseph Hanlon, who has been reporting on events here for more than two decades, has circulated a detailed review of the document's allegations, their credibility, and the number of votes that might have been affected by the various irregularities. He wrote that Guebuza's lead was so overwhelming that even if Dhlakama's plausible charges proved to be true, and making very generous estimates of the number of votes affected, Dhlakama would still be roughly half a million votes behind if irregularities were corrected. (Note: Latest (December 15) figures show that, in fact, Dhlakama would be 700-800,000 votes behind. The irregularities could matter for the parliamentary races, however, as they could cost RENAMO several Assembly seats. End Note.)

15. (C) No province was able to meet the December 9 provincial deadline for announcing results. Inhambane, the first province to publish figures, did so on December 10, and by December 14 all but two provinces had reported in. According to press reports, the tallies so far from the provinces give Guebuza roughly 2 million votes to Dhlakama's one million.

However, official tabulation at the national level remains substantially behind schedule. Despite press reports to the contrary, the president of the Electoral Administration Technical Secretariat (STAE) admitted privately to the Carter Center's Bravo that CNE would not meet the December 17 deadline to announce final national results.

16. (C) Comment: Dhlakama's berating of the voting process is accompanied by wholly unrealistic demands, such as that the entire Mozambican population be re-registered and the international community fund new national elections in six months' time. This posturing by one who seems to be only trying to postpone the inevitable appears increasingly ridiculous to many Mozambicans, we believe. Dhlakama and some of those close to him may still feel that he would have won had the process been flawless, but we have heard nothing to suggest that anyone else, including most of the RENAMO rank and file (many of whom did not vote) thinks so. End Comment.
LA LIME